

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00  
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 H-02 PA-02  
ICA-20 /143 W

-----078150 110516Z /15

R 101850Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1979  
INFO USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS ROME 6590

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PARM MNUC NAT IT  
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT  
ON ERW

1. THE PCI'S /UNITA/ REPORTS ON APRIL 10 THAT "PRIOR TO  
CARTER'S DECISION--N-BOMB OROTOTYPE ALREADY IN REALIZATION PHASE."  
THE DECISION, AUTHOR SERGIO PARDERA ASSERTS, WAS GREETED WITH  
SATISFACTION IN ITALY. THE N-BOMB WILL NOT, HE REPORTS,  
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BE ON THE NPG AGENDA. "THE PROBLEM, THEN, REMAINS DRAMATICALLY  
OPEN," AS THE PRESIDENT HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED MODIFICATIONS TO THE  
LANCE AND ARTILLERY SYSTEMS TO PERMIT INSTALLATION OF ERW  
WARHEADS SHOULD HE LATER DECIDE TO GO AHEAD WITH PRODUCTION OF  
THE WEAPON.

2. THE AMERICAN NEUTRON BOMB PROJECT GOES BACK 15 YEARS,

PARDERA WRITES, AND "ARMS OF THIS TYPE WERE STUDIED BY THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL IN THE EARLY 50'S" BUT NEVER WENT BEYOND THE RESEARCH PHASE. IN MAY OF LAST YEAR IT WAS LEARNED THAT 9 THOUSAND MILLION LIRE (\$10.2 BILLION)--TWO AND A HALF TIMES THE ITALIAN DEFENSE BUDGET, HE NOTES-- WAS APPROPRIATED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRON WARHEADS.

3. THE ARTICLE REPORTS THAT MINISTERS FORLANI (MFA AND RUFFINI (MOD) WILL BE REPLYING ON APRIL 11 TO INTERROGATIONS ON THE ERW DEPOSITED WITH THE PARLIAMENTS COMMISSIONS ON DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE GOVERNMENT IS REQUESTED TO REPLY TO WHETHER "THE MORAL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN WEIGHED"OF PROMOTING AN INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO OUTLAW ALL FORMS OF NEUTRON WEAPONS "SPECIFICALLY CONCEIVED TO STRIKE ESSENTIALLY AT THE GENETIC PATRIMONY OF MAN THROUGH THE ACCELERATION OF THE SPEED OF MUTATION, WITH THE CONSEQUENT GENETIC POLLUTION OF THE POPULATION, WHICH IN NON-LETHAL CASES, IS ESTIMATED TO SPREAD ITSELF THROUGH MORE THAN TEN GENERATIONS." PCI DEPUTIES BOLDRINI, PECCHIOLO AND VILLA, AMONG OTHER SIGNATORIES, "INVITE THE GOVERNMENT--IN ORDER TO AVOID THAT THE N-BOMB PLAY A ROLE AS AN ITEM OF EXCHANGE IN THE IMMINENT NEGOTIATIONS ON SALT OR ELSEWHERE --PROPOSE THE EXTENSION OF THE CONVENTION WHICH PROHIBITS THE PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, STORAGE OR USE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL, BIOLOGICAL, TOXIC INSTRUMENTS OF WAR TO INCLUDE WEAPONS WHICH, LIKE THE NEUTRON BOMB, CAUSE GENETIC MUTATIONS."

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4. A FLANKING REPORT, DATED MOSCOW, IS HEADED, "PRAVDA ACCUSES CARTER OF A PROPAGANDA PLOY." AN ARTICLE BY "NOTED OBSERVER" KOLESNICHENKO IS QUOTED, "WASHINGTON CIRCLES WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PUBLIC OPINION BELIEVE THAT THE US HAS MADE A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL WHICH SHOULD BE GREETED WITH APPLAUSE... AND THAT NOW IT IS UP TO THE USSR TO SHOW SIMILAR GOOD WILL." BUT, THE SOVIET WRITER CONTINUES, THE USSR HAS NOT ONLY ALWAYS SHOWN GOOD WILL BUT HAS ADVANCED PROPOSALS TO HALT THE ARMAMENTS RACE, ETC. THE SOVIET JOURNALISTS THEREFORE CONDEMN THE CARTER "MANEUVER." THE N-BOMB PROBLEM IS NOT RESOLVED; INSTEAD THERE IS PRECISE INFORMATION THAT THERE ARE FORCES IN THE U.S. "WHO DEMAND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARMS RACE AND CONFIRM THE NEED TO PRODUCE THE NEUTRON BOMB AT THE SAME TIME, PROVIDING IT AS WELL TO THE COUNTRIES OF NATO."

4. COMMENT: PROTESTATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE NOTWITHSTANDING, THE PCI, HAS AGAIN ADOPTED THE MOSCOW LINE ON AN ISSUE OF ALLIED SECURITY.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, COMMUNISTS, THE PRESS, ADVANCED WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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